

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-22 are pending in the above application. By the above amendment, claim 3 has been cancelled.

The Office Action dated November 22, 2005, has been received and carefully reviewed. In that Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hong. Claims 1-9 were also provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of several pending patent applications. Each of these issues is addressed below.

By the above amendment, the limitations of claim 3 have been added to claim 1, and claim 3 has been cancelled. No prior art rejections were raised in connection with claim 3. It is therefore respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 and its dependent claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-9 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over various claims of four copending applications. One of these applications, U.S. 10/808,581 has now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,985,581. A terminal disclaimer directed to that patent is submitted herewith. The withdrawal of the double patenting rejection based on U.S. 10/808,581 / U.S. 6,985,581 is therefore respectfully requested.

It is believed that all outstanding, non-provisional, rejections have been addressed by the above amendment and the submission of a terminal disclaimer. The only remaining rejections are provisional double patenting rejections based on applications that are still pending. Pursuant to MPEP 804(B), "if the provisional double patenting rejection in one application is the only rejection remaining in that application, the examiner should then withdraw that rejection and permit the application to issue as a patent...." The withdrawal of the provisional double patenting rejections and the allowance of this application are therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated November 22, 2005, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 1, 2 and 4-22 of the present application are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-9 and the allowance of claims 10-22 is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Charles Gorenstein

Registration No.: 29,271

Scott T. Wakeman

Registration No.: 37,750

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorneys for Applicant